



# Intrinsic interface mobility characterizing the $\gamma/\alpha$ -phase transformation in low alloyed steels

Ernst Gamsjäger<sup>1</sup>, Yuhong Liu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Montanuniversität Leoben, Institute of Mechanics, Austria



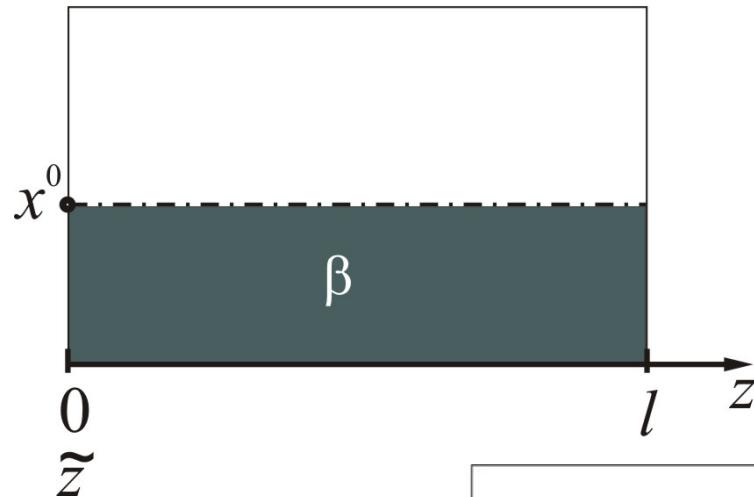
# Contents

- ***Thermodynamic description of multi-particle systems***
  - Calculus of variations (subject to constraints: Lagrange multipliers)
  - Example I: Phase equilibria, binary system
- ***Principle of maximizing the Gibbs energy dissipation***
  - Example II: Contact conditions at a migrating sharp interface
  - Example III: Contact conditions at a migrating thick interface
- ***Interface mobility***
  - Comparison of modeling results with experimental data
  - Determination of the effective mobility
  - Estimation of the intrinsic mobility

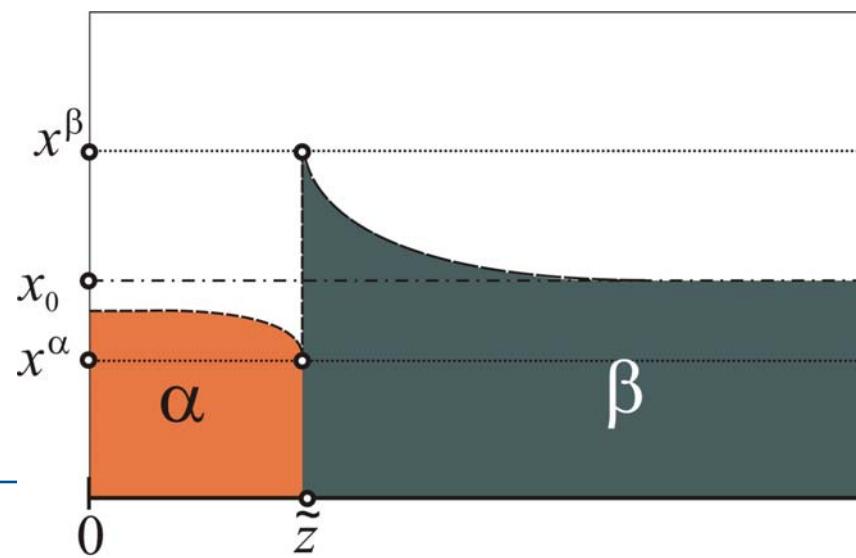
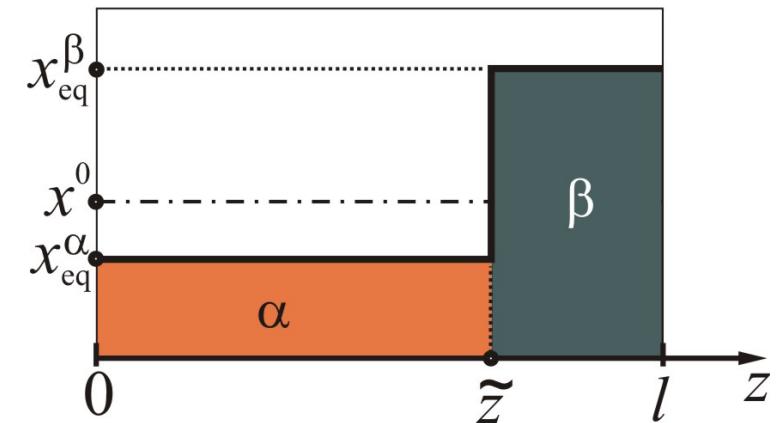


# Diffusive phase transformations

$t/s = 0$



$t/s \rightarrow \infty$



LE  
PE  
LENP  
 $M \rightarrow \infty$

# *Thermodynamic description of multi-particle systems*



System:  $6 \cdot 10^{23}$  particles

Equations of motion  $\square$

Extremal principles

Thermodynamics  $\checkmark$

Equilibrium thermodynamics

of irreversible processes

at least  $10^6$  atoms / RVE

$$\mu = \mu(T, x)$$

$$\mu_{\text{RVE1}} \neq \mu_{\text{RVE2}}$$

$$\underline{j} = -\frac{D}{RT} \nabla \mu$$

( $T, p$  const.)

Gibbs energy  $G = \min.$

Dissipation  $Q = \max.$

Balance equations

Calculus of variations  
(Constraints by Lagrange multipliers)

Equilibrium

Evolution equations

# Calculus of variations (subject to constraints: Lagrange multipliers)



Determine: Extremum of  $F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$

$m$  constraints  $g_j(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N) = 0$   
 $j = 1, 2, \dots, m ; (m < N)$

By Lagrange multipliers  $\lambda_j$ :

Extremum of

$$F + \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j g_j$$

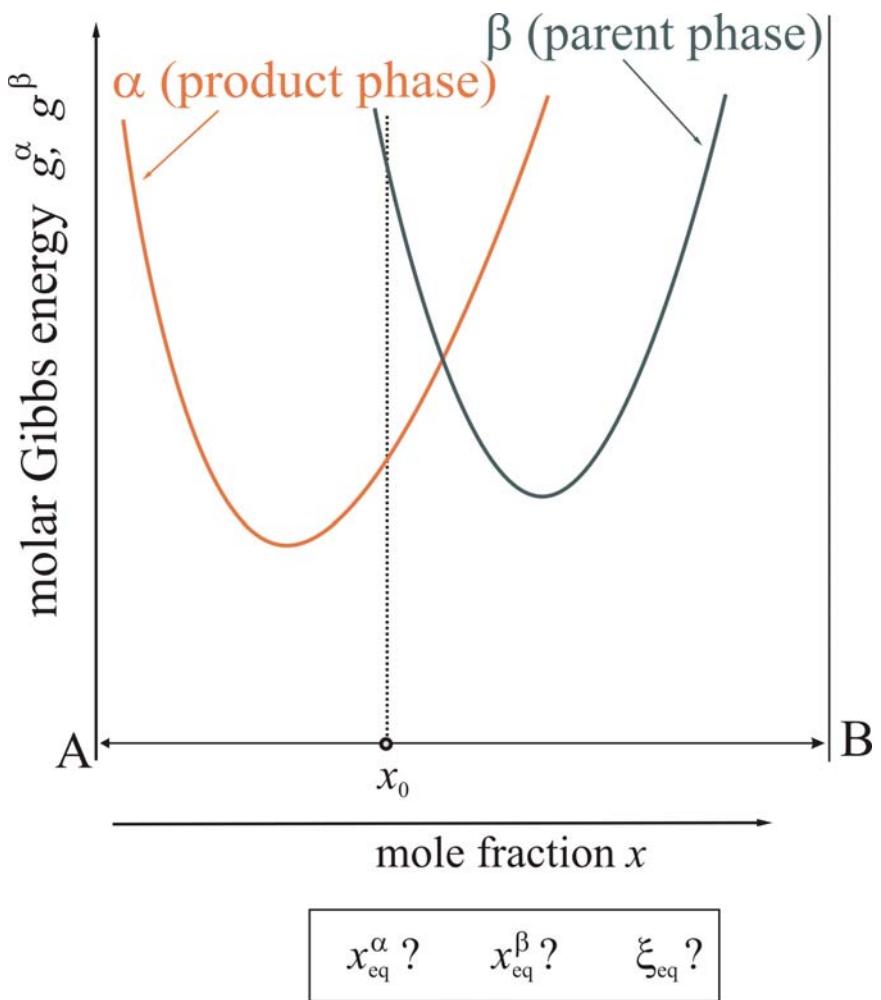
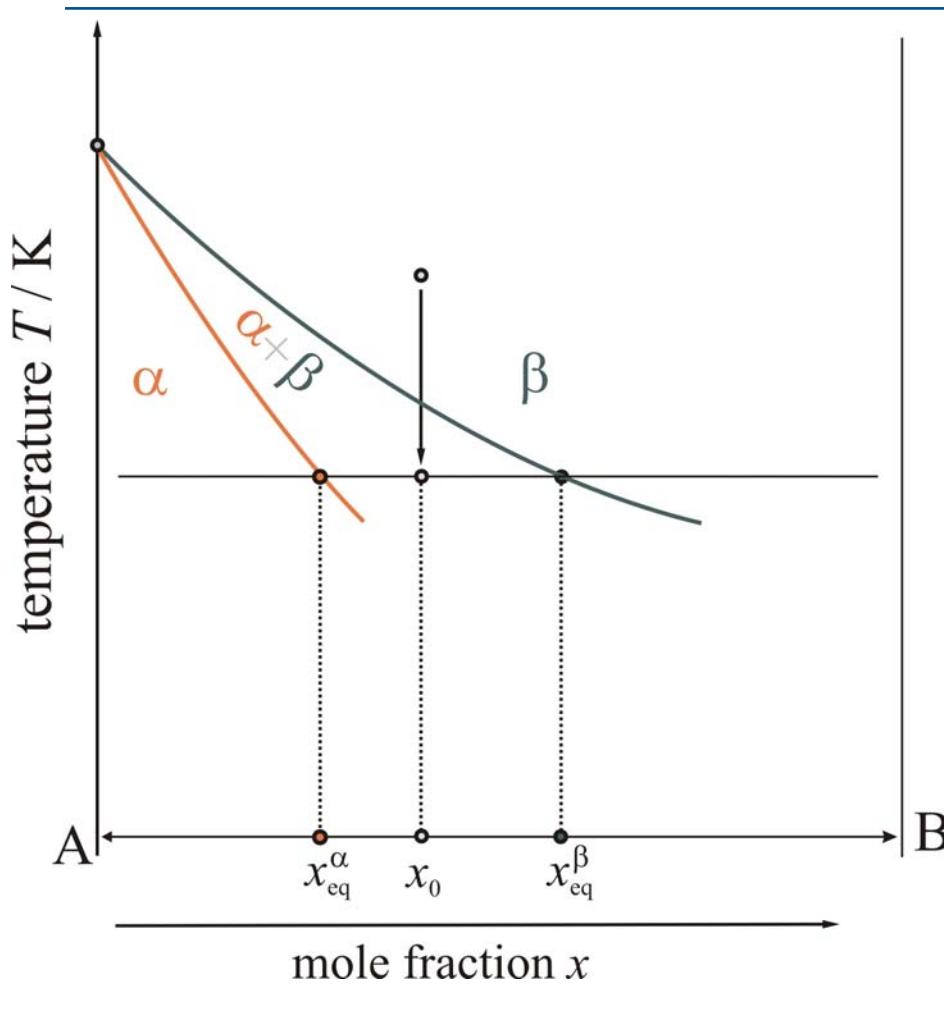
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( F + \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j g_j \right) = 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$N + m$  equations  
for  $m$  unknown  $\lambda_j$   
 $N$  unknown  $x_i$

Lagrange: Théorie des Fonctions Analytiques (p. 198, 1797)

# Example I:

## Phase equilibrium (binary system)





# Example I: Phase equilibrium (binary system)

Molar Gibbs energy of the system:  $g = g(x^\alpha, x^\beta, \xi)$

$$g = \xi g^\alpha + (1 - \xi) g^\beta$$

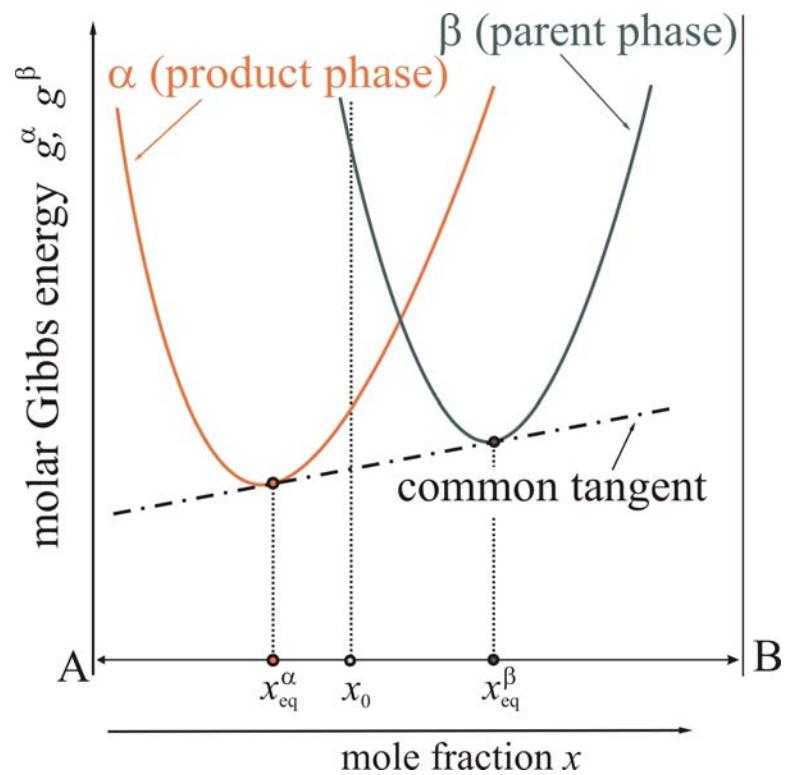
Minimum!

$$\text{Constraint: } x_0 = \xi x^\alpha + (1 - \xi) x^\beta$$

$$\Lambda = \xi g^\alpha + (1 - \xi) g^\beta + \lambda (x_0 - \xi x^\alpha - (1 - \xi) x^\beta)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial x^\alpha} = \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial x^\beta} = \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial \xi} = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\partial g^\alpha}{\partial x^\alpha} = \frac{\partial g^\beta}{\partial x^\beta} = \frac{g^\beta - g^\alpha}{x^\beta - x^\alpha}$$





# Principle of maximum dissipation $Q$ of the Gibbs energy

Onsager 1931 (Equations for heat conduction)

Onsager 1945 (Equations for diffusion)

Svoboda & Turek 1991 (Evolution equations for characteristic variables  $q_i$ )

Closed system, isothermal and isobaric process:

appropriate thermodynamic potential:

**Gibbs energy**  $G(q_1, \dots, q_N)$

$$\dot{G} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\partial G}{\partial q_i} \dot{q}_i$$

**Assumption: Dissipation  $Q$  of Gibbs energy is a quadratic form  
of  $N$  rates  $\dot{q}_i$  of the characteristic variables  $q_i$ .**

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N B_{ik} \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_k$$

$B_{ik}$  considers the kinetic parameter of the material (diffusion coefficients)  
and the geometry of the system.



# Principle of maximum dissipation $Q$ of the Gibbs energy

$$\dot{G} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\partial G}{\partial q_i} \dot{q}_i$$

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N B_{ik} \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_k$$

The extremal principle asserts that the rates  $\dot{q}_i$  of the characteristic variables correspond to a maximum of the Gibbs energy dissipation  $Q$  constrained by the energy balance  $\dot{Q} = -\dot{G}$  and by  $m$  further constraints.

$$\sum_{i=1}^N a_{ik}(q_1, \dots, q_N) \dot{q}_i = 0$$

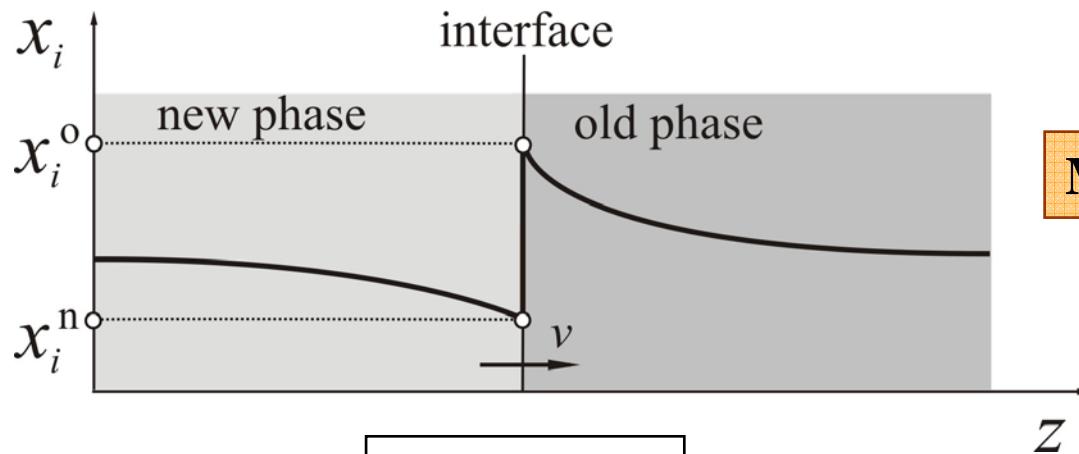
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left[ Q + \lambda(Q + \dot{G}) + \sum_{k=1}^m \beta_k \sum_{i=1}^N a_{ik} \dot{q}_i \right] = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \left[ \dot{G} + \frac{Q}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^m \beta_k \sum_{i=1}^N a_{ik} \dot{q}_i \right] = 0$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N B_{ij} \dot{q}_j + \sum_{k=1}^m a_{ik} \beta_k = -\frac{\partial G}{\partial q_i}$$



## Example II: Contact conditions at the sharp interface



$$[[a]] = a^o - a^n$$

**Mass balance at the interface**

$$[[x_i/\Omega]]v = [[j_i]]$$

$$x_i^I = x_i^o - \frac{j_i^o}{v} \Omega$$

**Substitutional diffusion**

Assumption: The amount of lattice vacancies is negligibly small, and so is the flux  $j_{va}$ .

$$\sum_{i=1}^s j_i = -j_{va} \approx 0$$



## Example II: Contact conditions at the sharp interface

$$\dot{G}_{\text{int}} = - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{v}{\Omega} \cdot x_i^{\text{I}} [[\mu_i]]$$

$$x_i^{\text{I}} = x_i^{\text{o}} - \frac{j_i^{\text{o}}}{v} \Omega$$

$$\dot{G}_{\text{int}} = \sum_{i=1}^N j_i^{\text{o}} [[\mu_i]] - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i^{\text{o}}}{\Omega} v [[\mu_i]]$$

$$Q_{\text{int}} = v^2 / M$$

Fluxes of the substitutional components ( $i = 1, \dots, s$ )

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial j_i^{\text{o}}} \left[ \dot{G}_{\text{int}} + \frac{Q_{\text{int}}}{2} + \kappa \left( \sum_{k=1}^s j_k \right) \right] = 0 \rightarrow \boxed{\kappa = -[[\mu_i]]} \rightarrow \boxed{[[\mu_1]] = [[\mu_2]] = \dots = [[\mu_s]]}$$



## Example II: Contact conditions at the sharp interface

$$\dot{G}_{\text{int}} = \sum_{i=1}^N j_i^0 [[\mu_i]] - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i^0}{\Omega} v [[\mu_i]]$$

$$Q_{\text{int}} = v^2/M$$

Fluxes (interstitial components  $i=s+1, \dots, N$ )

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial j_i^0} \left[ \dot{G}_{\text{int}} + \frac{Q_{\text{int}}}{2} \right] = 0 \longrightarrow [[\mu_{s+1}]] = [[\mu_{s+2}]] = \dots = [[\mu_N]] = 0$$



## Example II: Contact conditions at the sharp interface

$$\dot{G}_{\text{int}} = \sum_{i=1}^N j_i^{\text{o}}[[\mu_i]] - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i^{\text{o}}}{\Omega} v[[\mu_i]]$$

$$Q_{\text{int}} = v^2/M$$

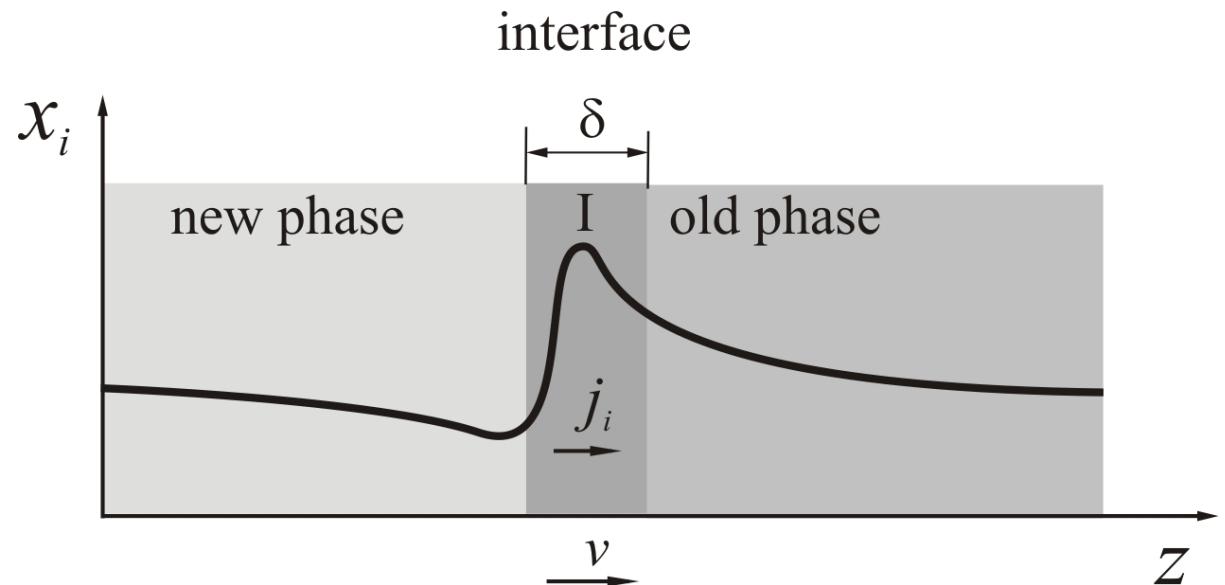
Interface velocity  $v$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ \dot{G}_{\text{int}} + \frac{Q_{\text{int}}}{2} \right] = 0 \rightarrow v = \frac{M}{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^{\text{o}}[[\mu_i]] = M \Delta f$$



## Example III: Contact conditions at a thick interface

$$G = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_{k=1}^N \int_0^\delta x_k \mu_k dz$$



$$\dot{G} = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta [j_i - (x_i/\Omega)v] \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} dz$$

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta \frac{j_i^2}{A_i} dz + \frac{v^2}{M}, \quad A_i = \frac{x_i D_i}{\Omega R T}$$



## Example III: Contact conditions at a thick interface

$$\dot{G} = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta [j_i - (x_i/\Omega)v] \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} dz$$

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta \frac{j_i^2}{A_i} dz + \frac{v^2}{M}, \quad A_i = \frac{x_i D_i}{\Omega R T}$$

**Fluxes of the substitutional components ( $i = 1, \dots, s$ )**

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial j_i} \left[ \dot{G} + \frac{Q}{2} + \int_0^\delta \kappa \sum_{k=1}^s j_k dz \right] = 0$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} + \frac{j_i}{A_i} + \kappa = 0$$

$$\kappa = - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^s A_i \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z}}{\sum_{j=1}^s A_j}$$

$$\mu_i(\delta) - \mu_i(0) = - \left( \int_0^\delta \kappa dz + \int_0^\delta \frac{j_i}{A_i} dz \right)$$

$$j_i = A_i \left( \kappa - \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} \right)$$



## Example III: Contact conditions at a thick interface

$$\dot{G} = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta [j_i - (x_i/\Omega)v] \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} dz$$

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta \frac{j_i^2}{A_i} dz + \frac{v^2}{M}, \quad A_i = \frac{x_i D_i}{\Omega R T}$$

Interface velocity  $v$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ \dot{G} + \frac{Q}{2} \right] = 0$$



$$v = \frac{M}{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^s \int_0^\delta x_i \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial z} dz$$

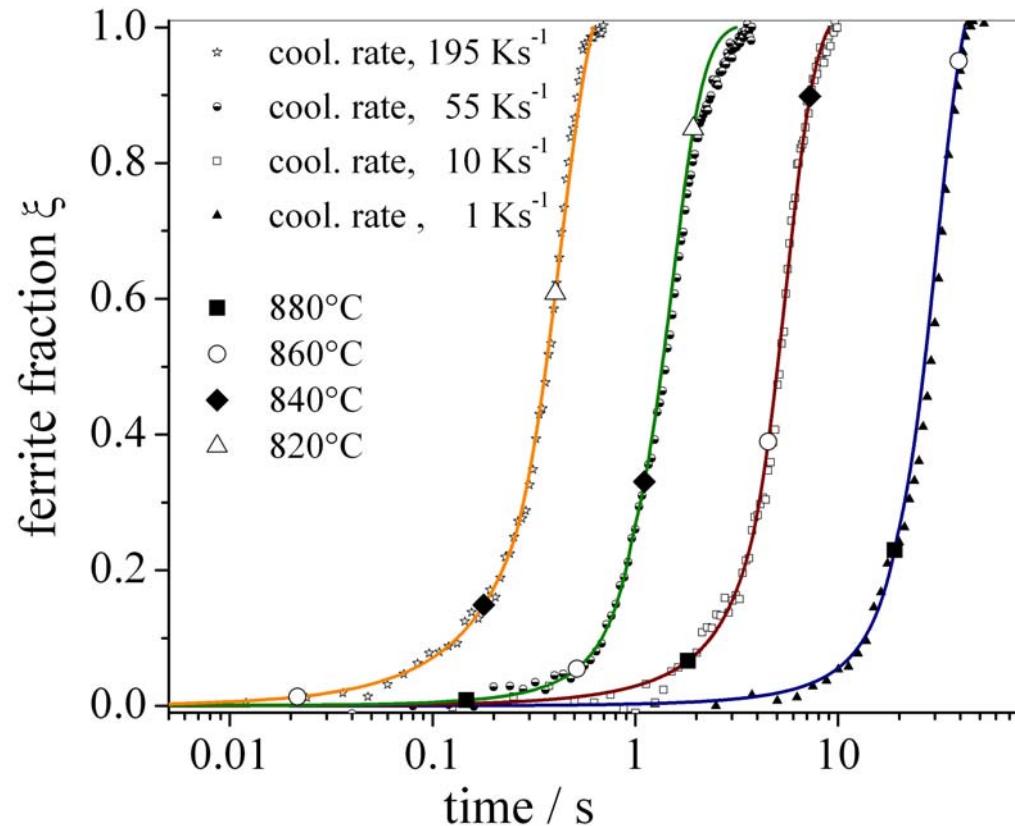
$M$  ... intrinsic interface mobility  
 $M_{\text{eff}}$  ... effective interface mobility

M. Hillert, *Acta mater.* **52** (2004) 5289–5293.

J. Svoboda, J. Vala, E. Gamsjäger, F.D. Fischer, *Acta mater.* **54** (2006) 3953-3960.



# Experiment 1: Ultra-low alloyed C-steel



$$w_{\text{C}} = 20 \text{ ppm}$$

$$w_{\text{Mn}} = 0.11\%$$

$$\xi(t) = \frac{a}{1 + b \exp(-ct)}$$

$$\frac{d\xi}{ds} \cdot \frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{d\xi}{ds} (\text{geometry}) \cdot \frac{ds}{dt}$$

$$v = M_{\text{eff}} \cdot \Delta f$$

M. Militzer, Austenite decomposition kinetics in advanced low carbon steels, Solid Phase Transformations 99, eds. M. Koiwa, K. Otsuka and T. Miyazaki, JIM, Sendai (1999) 1521-1524.

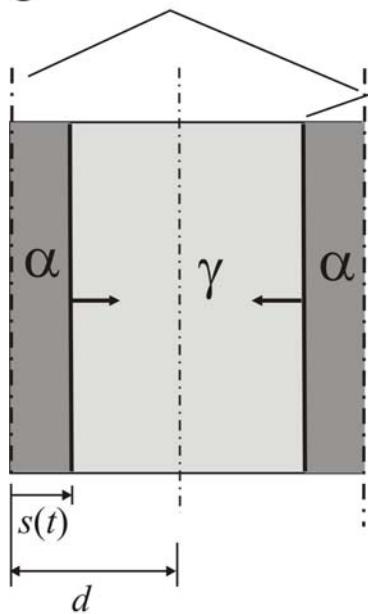
E. Gamsjäger, M. Militzer, F. Fazeli, J. Svoboda, F. D. Fischer: "Interface mobility in case of the austenite-to-ferrite phase transformation", Comp. Mat. Sci, **37** (2006 ) 94-100.



# Geometry of the $\gamma/\alpha$ – phase arrangement

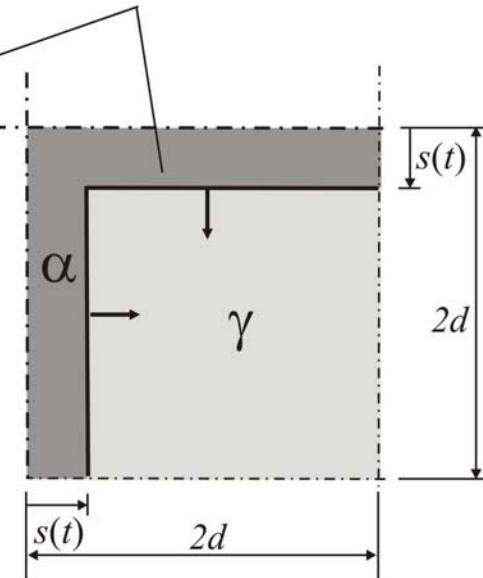
I, Plate

grain boundaries

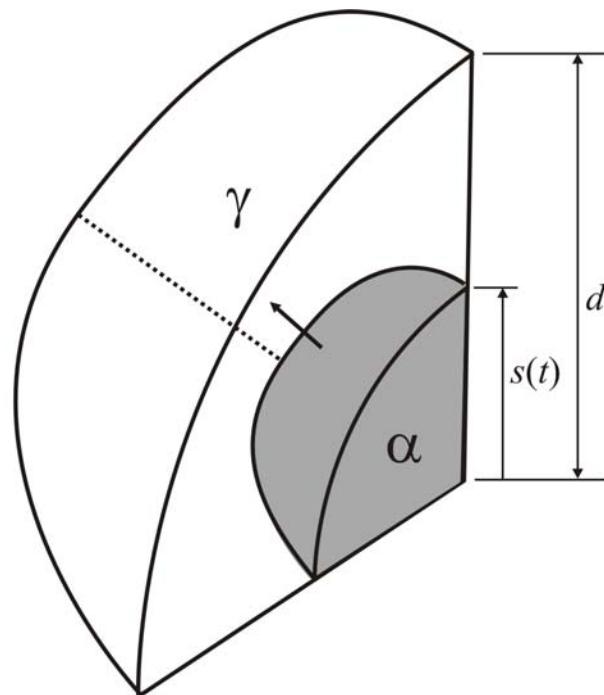


II, 2 Plates

interface



III, Sphere



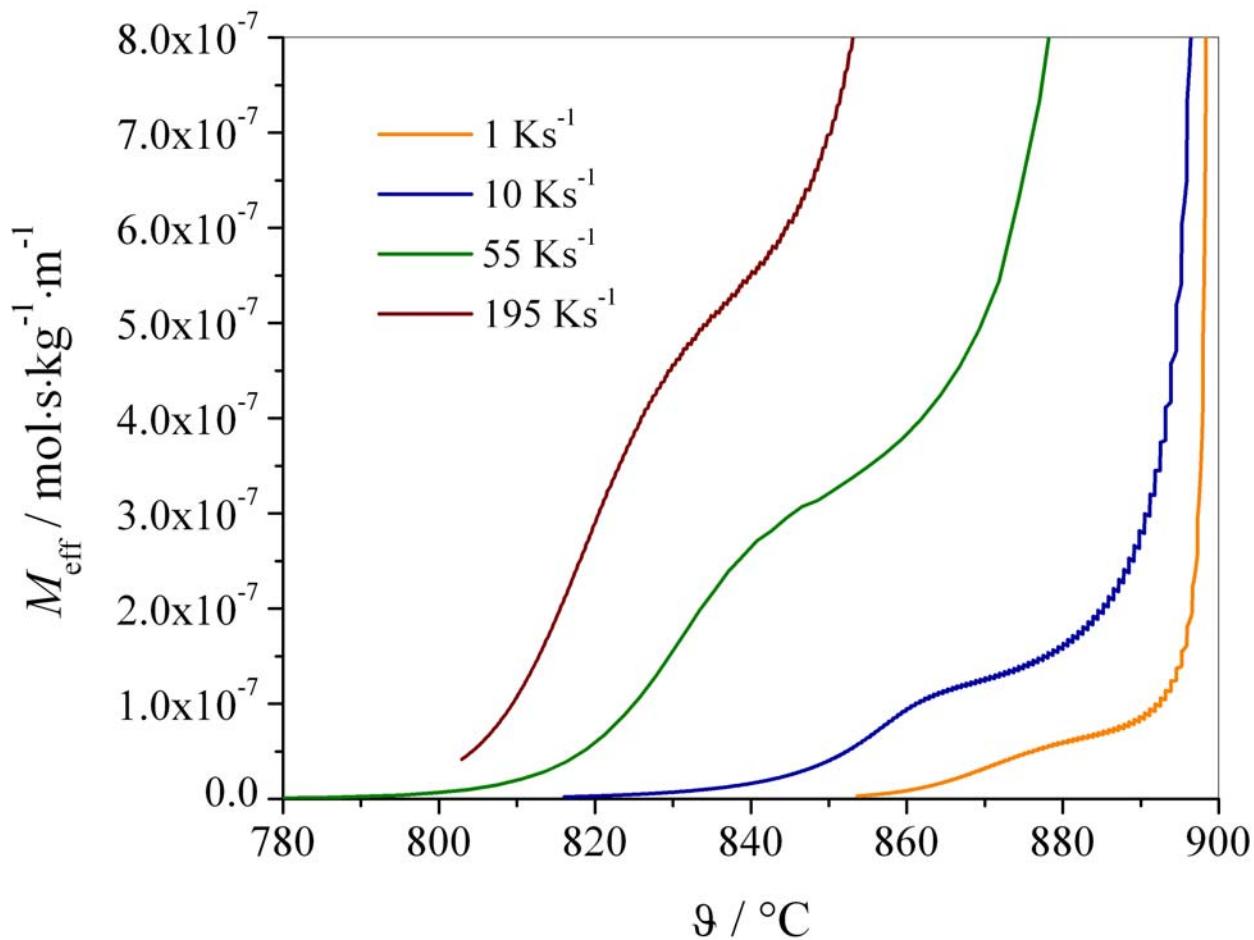
$$M_{\text{eff}} = \frac{d}{\Delta f} \dot{\xi}$$

$$M_{\text{eff}} = \frac{2d^2}{(2d - s)\Delta f} \dot{\xi}$$

$$M_{\text{eff}} = \frac{d^3}{3s^2 \Delta f} \dot{\xi}$$

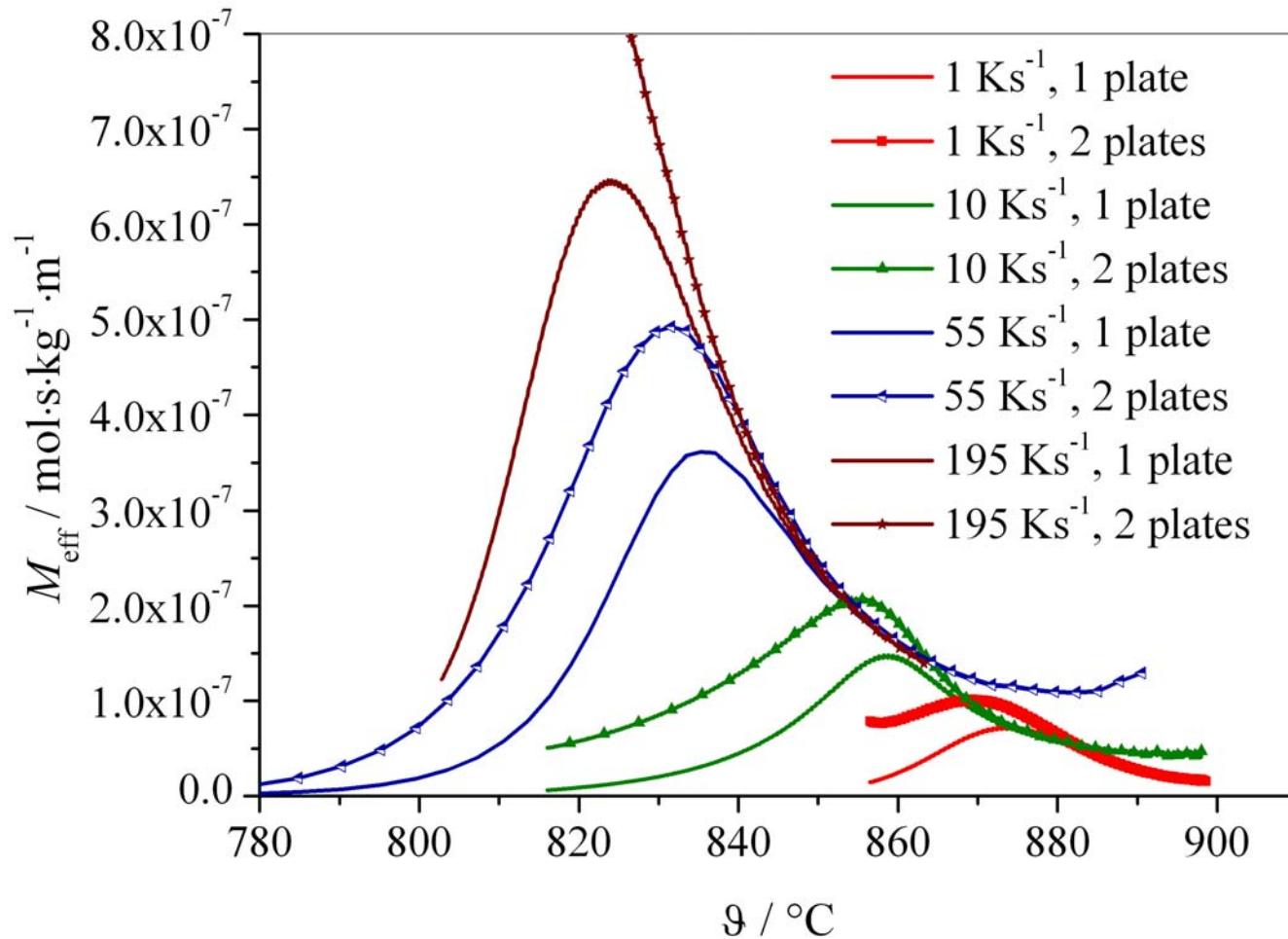


# Effective interface mobility for spherical growth



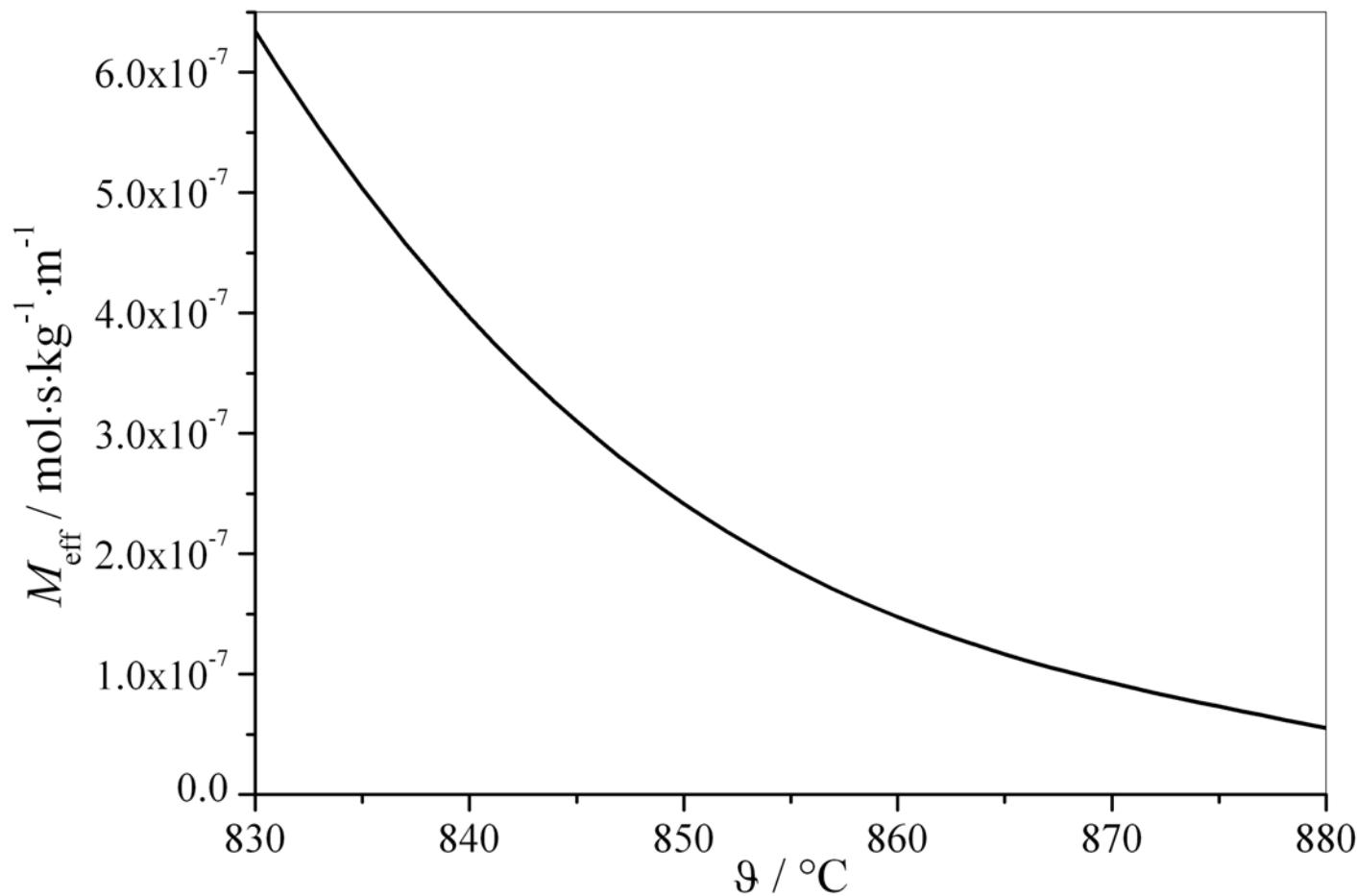


# Effective interface mobility for plate-like growth





## Master curve





# Solute drag

$$v = M_{\text{eff}} \Delta f$$



$$v = M (\Delta f - \Delta f_{\text{sd}})$$

$$M = M_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{Q_M}{RT}\right) \rightarrow Q_M \approx 147 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$$

- $M_0 = 4800 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$

M. Hillert, Diffusion and interface control of reactions in alloys, Metallurgical Transactions 6A (1975) 5-19.

- $M_0 = 0.058 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$

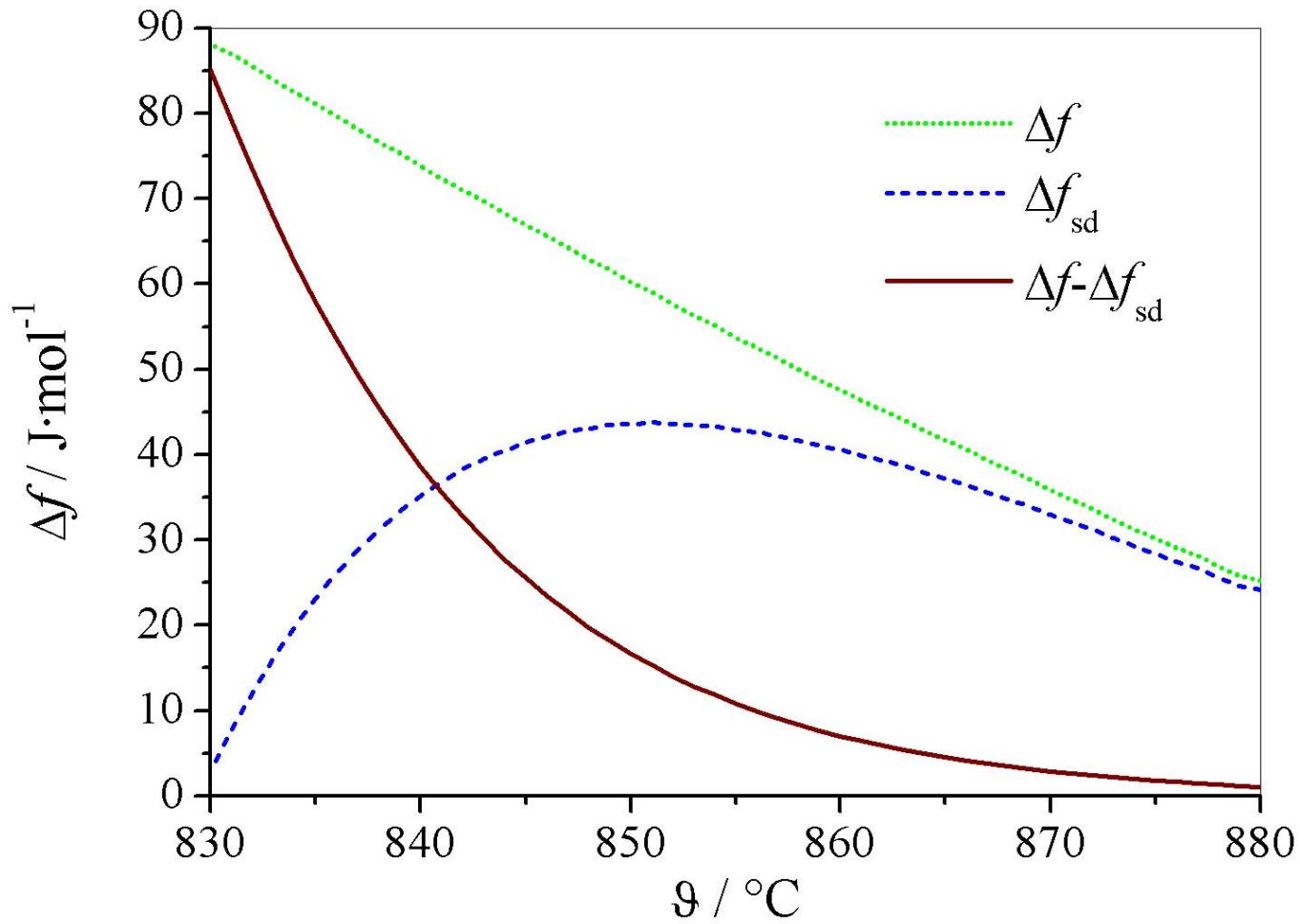
G. P. Krielaart, S. van der Zwaag, Kinetics of  $\gamma/\alpha$  phase transformations in Fe-Mn alloys containing low manganese, Materials Science and Technology 14 (1998) 10-18.

- $M_0 = (6 - 15) \text{ mol} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$

E. Gamsjäger, M. Militzer, F. Fazeli, J. Svoboda, F. D. Fischer, „Interface mobility in case of the austenite-to-ferrite phase transformation“, Comput. Mater. Sci. 37 (2006) 94-100.

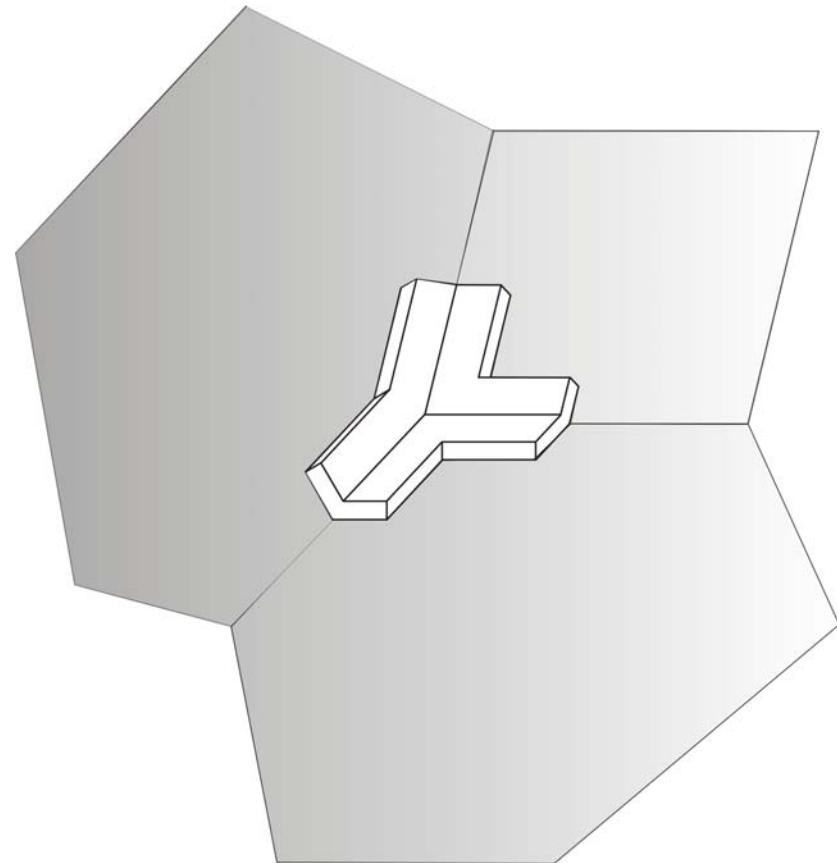
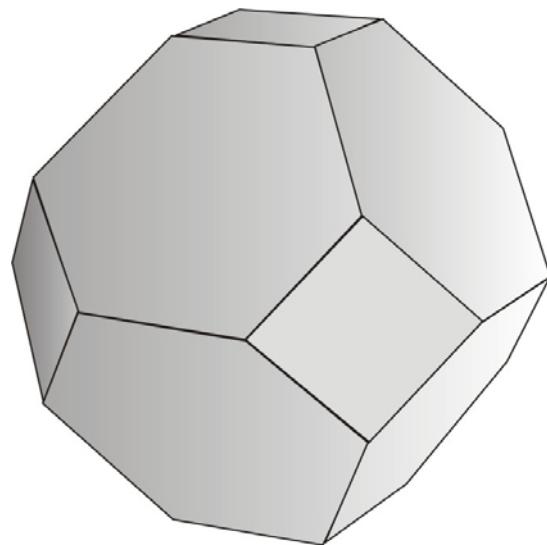


# Driving forces



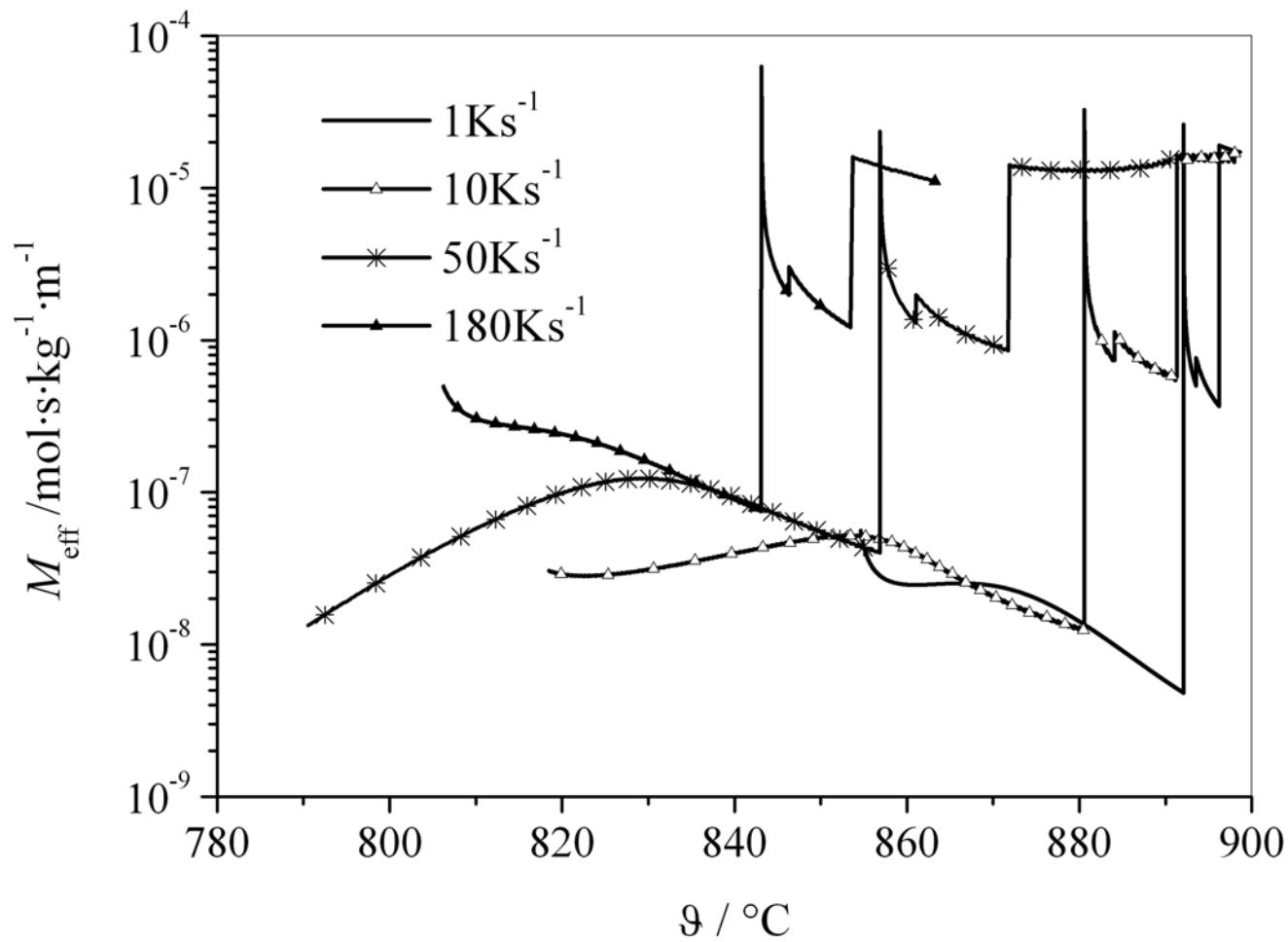
# Hierarchical model (tetrakaidecahedron grains)

---



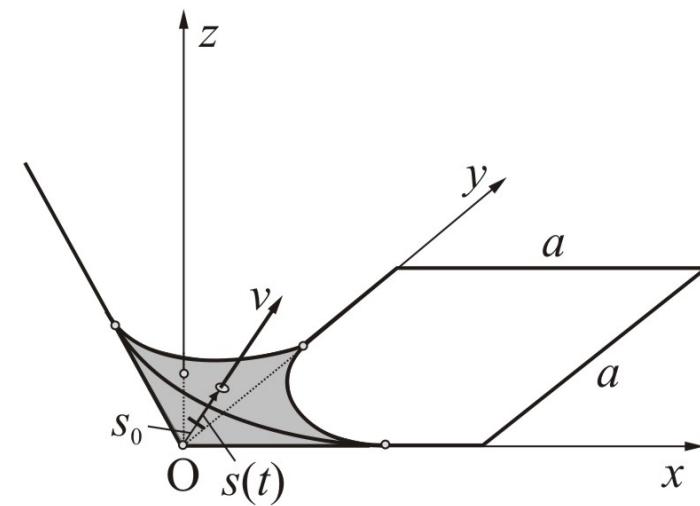
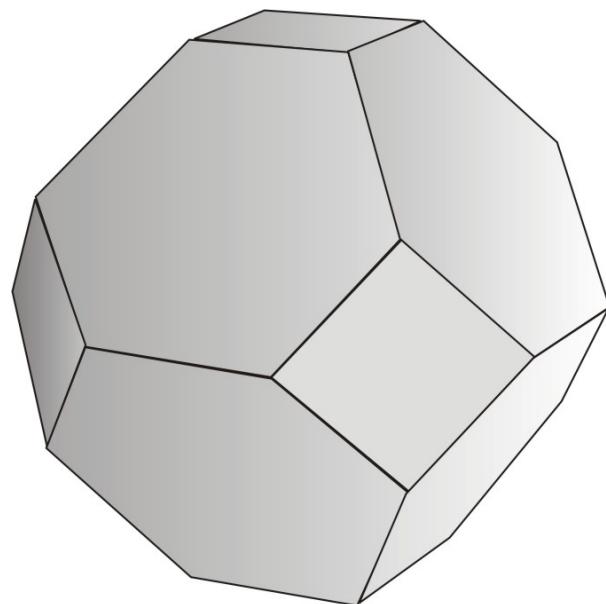
---

# Hierarchical model (tetrakaidecahedron grains)



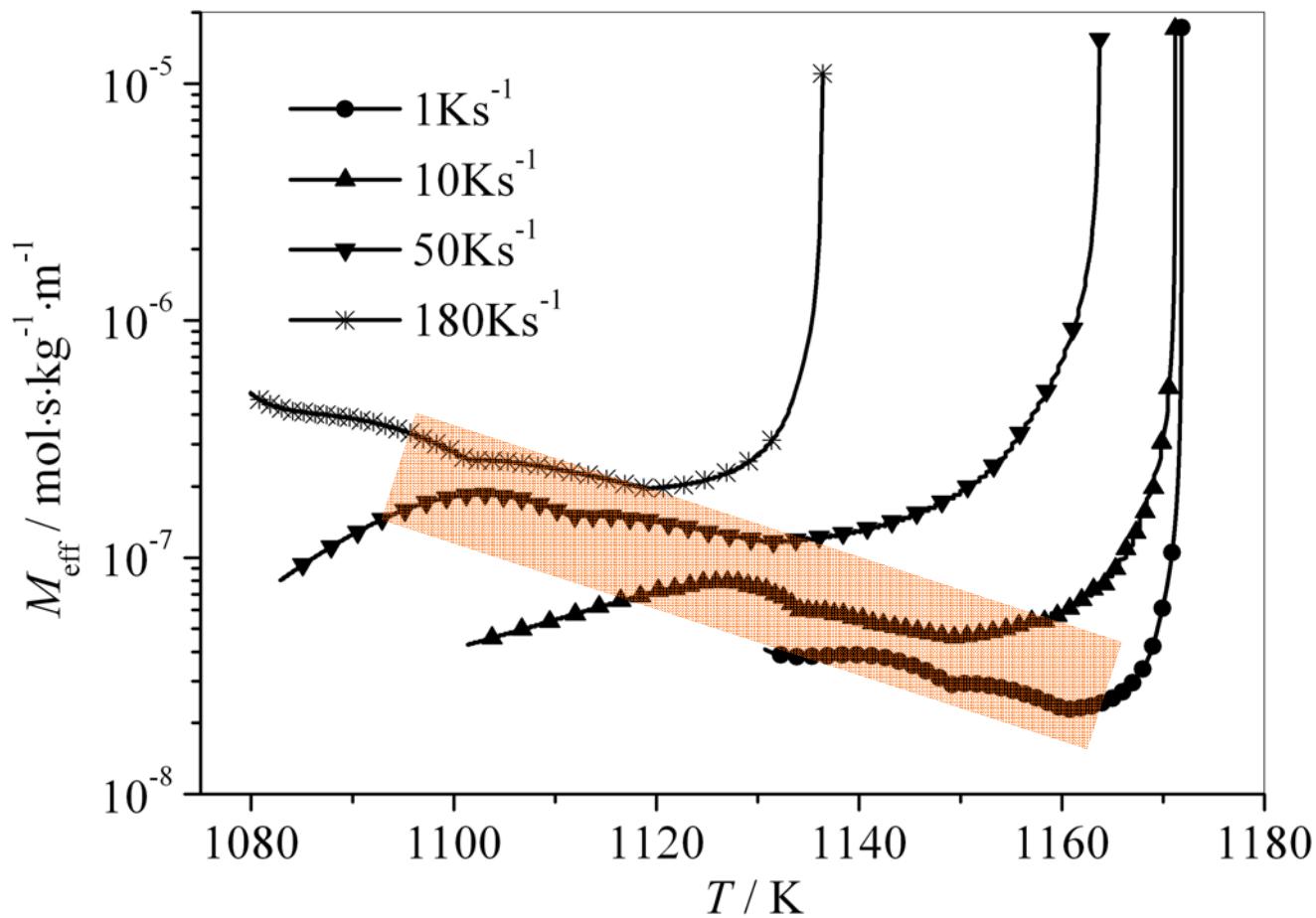
# Tetrakaidecahedron model (Ferrite between tetrakaidecahedron and sphere)

---



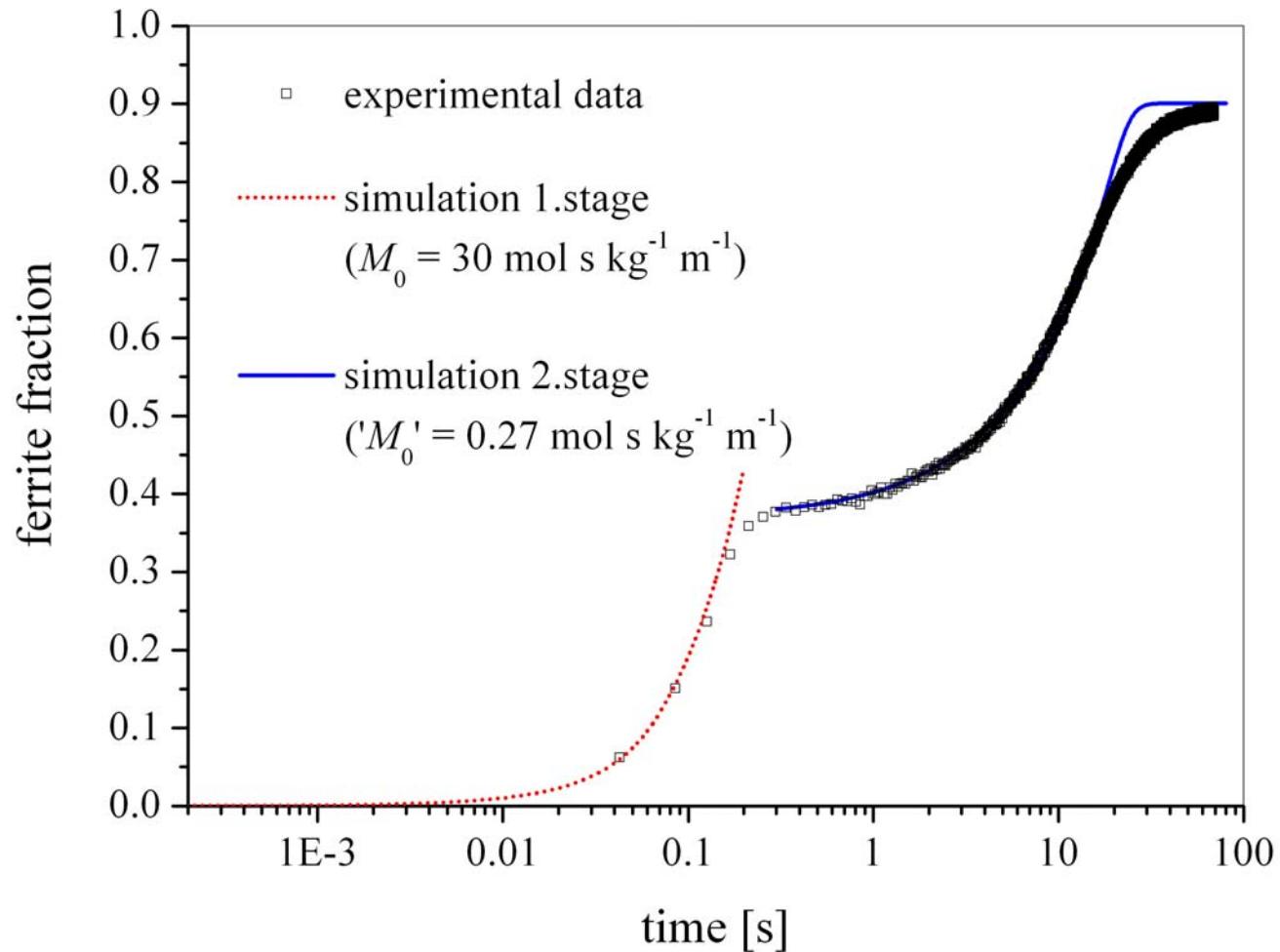


# Effective interface mobility as a result of the tetrakaidecahedron model





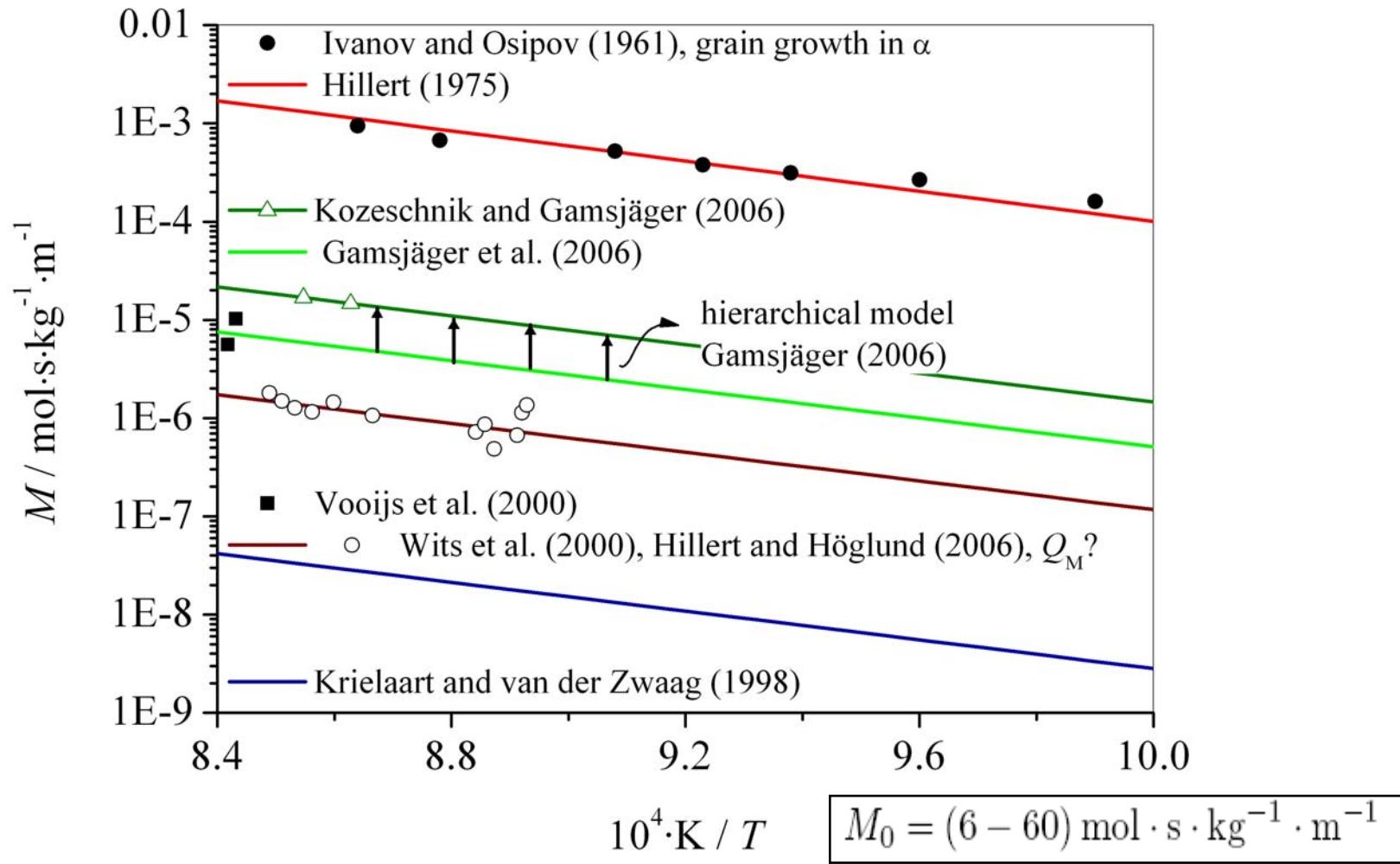
## Experiment 2: Fe-C-alloy 1. stage and 2. stage





# Intrinsic interface mobility $M$

## A literature survey





# Conclusions and Outlook

## → Sharp & thick interface models in the view of non-equilibrium thermodynamics

### Results: sharp interface

- ❖ Substitutional components
- ❖ Interstitial components
- ❖ Interface velocity

$$[[\mu_1]] = [[\mu_2]] = \dots = [[\mu_s]]$$

$$[[\mu_{s+1}]] = [[\mu_{s+2}]] = \dots = [[\mu_N]] = 0$$

$$v = \frac{M}{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^o [[\mu_i]] = M \Delta f.$$

## → Estimation of the intrinsic mobility

- ❖ Evaluation of experimental data by transformation models.

### Next tasks:

- Application of the principle of maximum dissipation to further problems in materials science.